Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02580 221559Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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S E C R E T ATHENS 2580

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, US
SUBJ: MEETING WITH BITSIOS: DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS

1. DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS MARCH 21 (SEPTEL), AMBASSADOR INQUIRED HOW BITSIOS SAW NEXT WEEK'S DISCUSSION IN VIENNA CONCERNING CYPRUS. BITSIOS SAID HE EXPECTED THE TURKS TO CONTINUE TO APPEAR CONCILIATORY AND FELT THAT SOME NEW PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE. INDEED, HE THOUGHT MAKARIOS HAD BEEN VERY SPECIFIC AND FORTHCOMING AND, OF COURSE, IT WAS STILL THE GOG'S POSITION TO SUPPORT MAKARIOS AND HIS NEGOTIATING POSTURE AS FULLY AS THEY COULD. INDEED, THE GOG THOUGHT THAT MAKARIOS MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN AGREEING WITH CLIFFORD TO PRESENT A MAP REFLECTING BIZONALITY AND OTHER ELEMENTS INDICATING HIS MAXIMUM CONCESSIONS AS EARLIER REVEALED TO US AT THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. BITSIOS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT MAKARIOS' MAP WOULD PROVIDE FOR ONLY A 20 PERCENT TURKISH ZONE AND THAT HE WAS HOLDING AN ADDITIONAL FIVE PERCENT BACK FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES.

2. IN ANSWER TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION WHETHER THE GOG POSITION ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAD CHANGED IN ANY WAY AND WHETHER GREECE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN PUSHING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02580 221559Z

MAKARIOS TO SETTLE, BITSIOS CONFIRMED THAT THE GOG POSITION REMAINED AS ARTICULATED IN HELSINKI AND SUBSEQUENTLY, AND THAT THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD WITHIN REASON TO BRING ITS INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON MAKARIOS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SYG WALDHEIM HAD A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING THINGS ON THE TRACK IN VIENNA. WALDHEIM HAS NOT ALWAYS TAKEN AS ENERGETIC AND IMAGINATIVE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

A PART AS NECESSARY IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND THE
USG SHOULD URGE HIM TO TAKE A FIRM HAND IN VIENNA. BITSIOS
BELIEVES THAT IF THE GOG IS TO BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE MAKARIOS
IN A MEANINGFUL WAY IT MUST ALSO BE KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED
BY THE UN ITSELF WHILE THE TALKS ARE GOING ON, OT AFTER
THEY HAVE CONCLUDED AND NOT SECONDHAND THROUGH THE US
OBSERVER IN VIENNA. IF THIS IS DONE AND IF TALKS CONTINUE
LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE, HE SAID THE GOG WAS
PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL BY PUTTING AS MUCH HEAT AS IT FELT
IT COULD ON MAKARIOS.

3. AMBASSADOR ENQUIRED IF BITSIOS HAD ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLE
IN MIND AS TO HOW WALDHEIM COULD PLAY A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE THIS TIME IN VIENNA. BITSIOS SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE,
IF ONE SIDE PRODUCED A MAP AND THEN INSISTED THAT THE OTHER
SIDE DO LIKEWISE BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CONTINUED,
WALDHEIM SHOULD STEP IN AND PLAY A MORE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE IN PRESIDING OVER THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SHOULD NOT
ALLOW THEM TO BECOME DEADLOCKED ON SOME PROCEDURAL ISSUE
SUCH AS THIS. WHAT DIFFERENCE IT MAKE WHETHER THERE WAS
ONE MAP OR TWO MAPS AS LONG AS A MAP OF CYPRUS WAS ON
THE TABLE THAT CONTAINED SOME KIND OF A PROPOSAL. WALDHEIM
SHOULD THEN TRY AND ELICIT A DISCUSSION OF THE MERITS OF
THE PROPOSAL AND GET THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSING IN SPECIFIC
TERMS WHERE THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE AND WHERE IT WAS
NOT ACCEPTABLE AND HOW IT SHOULD BE REVISED. THAT WAS
WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. IN OTHER WORDS, WALDHEIM
WOULD HAVE TO PLAY A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE BECAUSE THE
TWO SIDES REALLY NEED THIS OUTSIDE HELP. MOREOVER, HE
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WENT ON, HE SIMPLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW WALDHEIM--
WITH NO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
GOING ON--SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW ONLY TWO DAYS OR
SO FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN THESE VIENNA TALKS.
BITSIOS THOUGHT IS HIGHTLY IMPORTANT FOR WALDHEIM TO SUSTAIN
HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME AND
PLAY A MUCH MORE ENERGETIC ROLE IN ORDER FOR THIS NEXT
ROUND OF TALKS TO MAKE THE PROGRESS WHICH WAS POTENTIALLY
POSSIBLE. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH PERSONALLY
AND DIRECTLY WITH WALDHEIM ON THIS POINT AND HE (BITSIOS)
CLEARLY BELIEVED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE US ALSO
WEIGHED IN HEAVILY WITH WALDHEIM ALONG THESE LINES.
KUBISCH

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22 May 2009
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